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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Hiroyuki HOSHIYA et al.  
Serial No.: 10/077,854  
Filed: February 20, 2002  
For: **SPIN-VALVE HEAD CONTAINING CLOSED-FLUX-STRUCTURE  
DOMAIN CONTROL FILMS**  
Group: 2653  
Examiner: Christopher R. Beacham

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 8, 2004

Sir:

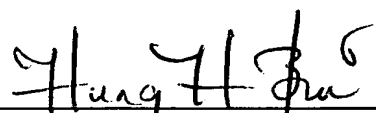
Pursuant to Applicants' duty to disclose under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, and further to the Examiner's request, hard copies of all related art references described in the Background section of Applicants' disclosure are provided herein along with form PTO/SB/O8A equivalent to Form PTO-1449. No fee is incurred by the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner and entered as a matter of right for purposes of completeness.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry,

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Respectfully submitted,  
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For: The Patent Application

Our Ref.: NT0548US

☆List OF THE PRIOR ART REFERENCES CITED  
IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. UNITED STATES PATENT No. 5, 408, 377
2. JAPANESE Laid-open No. 07 (95) - 73416
3. JAPANESE Laid-open No. 07 (95) - 169026
4. JAPANESE Laid-open No. 10 (98) - 173252
5. JAPANESE Laid-open No. 10 (98) - 284768
6. JAPANESE Laid-open No. 11 (99) - 259824